



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JURY CONVICTS KCK MAN FOR METH CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Kan., man was convicted by a federal trial jury today of participating in a conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine.

Timothy A. Kateusz, 34, of Kansas City, was found guilty of two charges contained in a Feb. 25, 2004, federal indictment.

Kateusz was convicted of participating in a conspiracy to manufacture five grams or more of methamphetamine between Feb. 1 and June 3, 2002. **Kateusz** was also convicted of attempting to manufacture five grams or more of methamphetamine during that period.

Following the presentation of evidence, jurors deliberated about two hours before returning the guilty verdicts to U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs, ending a trial that began Aug. 8, 2005.

Kateusz was arrested on June 3, 2002, after fleeing from officers and hiding in a wooded area near a residence at 6524 S. Richmond in Kansas City, Mo. That residence, Graves said, contained a clandestine methamphetamine lab.

Four co-defendants have pleaded guilty and been sentenced in this case.

* **Donald R. Swank**, 37, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced on Dec. 2, 2004, to five years and 10 months in federal prison without parole. **Swank** pleaded guilty on Aug. 4, 2004, to his role in the conspiracy. **Swank** admitted that he conspired to manufacture five grams or more of methamphetamine between Feb. 1 and June 3, 2002.

* **Rodney A. Lane**, 26, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced on Dec. 15, 2004, to five years in federal prison without parole. **Lane** pleaded guilty on Aug. 30, 2004, to his role in the

conspiracy. **Lane** admitted that he assisted in the manufacture of approximately 15 grams of pure methamphetamine by cutting match sticks and providing pseudoephedrine to meth cooks.

* **Ellen Nicole Wagner**, 20, of Independence, Mo., was sentenced on Jan. 13, 2005, to three years in federal prison without parole. **Wagner** pleaded guilty on Aug. 26, 2004, to her role in the conspiracy. **Wagner** admitted that she also assisted in the manufacture of approximately 15 grams of pure methamphetamine by cutting match sticks and providing pseudoephedrine to meth cooks.

Under federal statutes, Graves explained, **Kateusz** may be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole on each of the two counts of the indictment, up to 80 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$4 million.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Catherine Connelly. It was investigated by the Kansas City Metro Meth Task Force.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow